REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13 and 14 are pending and have been amended. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 11 are the only independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Initially, the Examiner has refused to consider the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed October 6, 2005 because it allegedly did not include a concise explanation of relevance. However, the requirement for such explanation may be met by a foreign search report that discusses the relevance. In this case, the relevant portions of the Japanese Office Action were translated and forwarded with the references. The Examiner is requested to initial the form PTO/SB/08 and return the form with the next Office Action.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0037266 (Schroeder) in view of U.S. Patent 6,138,158 (Boyle et al.). Claims 3, 6, 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Schroeder in view of Boyle et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,852,717 (Bhide et al.). Applicant submits that the independent claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

The present invention, as defined in the amended independent claim 1, relates to a method in which:

a) a first request packet (A1) requests identity of an intended server maintaining a shared data file;

b) a second request packet (A2) requests downloading of the shared data file from the intended server by transmitting the identity of the intended server received from a server to which the first request packet was sent. The second request packet is automatically routed through the network to the intended server. The acquisition of the identity of the intended server from the initial server simplifies the procedure the client terminal has to perform in

locating the intended server. Otherwise, the identity of the shared data file would have to be altered for requesting it from a management server; and

      c) a third request packet (A3) requests differential data representing the difference between the shared data file currently maintained in the intended server and the one that was downloaded in response to the second request packet.

      As a result of the above-mentioned processing these request packets the integrity of the shared data file can be secured. It is not believed that the cited prior art teaches or suggests at least these features of amended claim 1. The other amended independent claims recite similar features and are believed patentable for at least the same reasons. For at least this reason, the amended independent claims are believed patentable over the cited art.

      Moreover, Schroeder relates to an image server system that provides access to image files located in an image file server. However, it was conceded that Schroeder contains no teaching of the transmission of the third request packet recited in step f). Boyle et al. was cited to allegedly remedy this deficiency.

      Boyle et al. shows a method for sending updated information to a client device. In this system, upon a request, updated information is fetched first into a link device, and then the updated information is sent to the client device.

      However, in claim 1, differential data, that is, data indicative of the difference between the shared data file currently maintained by the intended server and the shared data file that was downloaded in step e), is what is sent, not the "updated information," as in Boyle. Moreover, while certain portions of Boyle refer to the updated information more informally as "updates", it is quite clear from the context, that is, the specification and drawings *taken as a whole*, as it must be, that what is being sent is the updated information.

See, e.g., Figure 8F, step 861 ("receive updated information"); col. 2, lines 24-28; col. 14, lines 21-24.

Further, there is no discussion in Boyle of differential data or of just sending information indicative of the difference between the old information and the updated information. This lack of a teaching, combined with the clear teaching that it is the updated *information* that is sent, makes it clear that the portion of Boyle cited in the Office Action, while it uses the word "update," does *not* mean that only differential data is sent. "Update" in the Boyle specification is just another word for "updated information." In any event, even the very section cited by the Examiner refers to what is sent from the link device to the client as "updated information." Col. 17, lines 11-13.

For at least these additional reasons, amended claim 1 is believed clearly patentable over Schroeder and Boyle et al. The other independent claims recite a substantially similar feature and are believed patentable for substantially the same reasons.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, amended independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 11 are believed clearly patentable over Schroeder and Boyle et al.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.
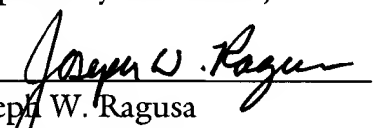
This Amendment in Response to Final Office Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment in Response to Final Office Action, as

an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Dated: February 21, 2006   Respectfully submitted,

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